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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **KIMURA, Shizuo, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 3726

Serial No.: 10/560,835

Examiner: **AFZALI, Sarang**

Filed: **May 31, 2006**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 6851

For: **WHEEL RIM, WHEEL, AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THEM**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(d)**

Attn: Group Director

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 30, 2008

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 cited by the Japanese Patent Office in a corresponding application. A copy of each document is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee.

The undersigned hereby certifies:

XX That each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application on November 25, 2008 not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement;

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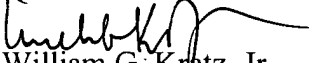
That no item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account in the amount of \$180.00 which covers the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this Statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: PTO 1449, Copy of Communication from JPO with English translation
References (7)